

I CLAIM:

1. A covering module for transportation to a surface to be covered and for attachment to additional modules to form a finished decorative surface comprising:

at least one decorative covering having an upper decorative surface and an opposite lower surface, a non-decorative anchor sheet having an upper surface and a non-decorative lower surface, the decorative covering detachably attached across a substantial portion of its lower surface to the non-decorative anchor sheet and the anchor sheet dimensioned so that, after attachment of the decorative covering to the anchor sheet, there is provided an overlap area of upper surface of anchor sheet exposed along one edge of the module, which overlap area is provided with means for detachable attachment of such module to an adjoining module by attachment to an overlapping exposed area of the lower surface of a decorative covering attached to an adjoining module.

2. A covering module for transportation to a surface to be covered and for attachment to additional modules to form a finished decorative surface comprising:

at least one decorative covering having an upper decorative surface and an opposite lower surface, a non-decorative anchor sheet having an upper surface and a non-decorative lower surface, the decorative covering detachably attached across a substantial portion of its lower surface to the non-decorative anchor sheet and the anchor sheet dimensioned so that, after attachment of the decorative covering to the anchor sheet, there is provided an overlap area of lower surface of the decorative covering exposed along one edge of the module, which overlap area is provided with means for detachable attachment of such

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module to an adjoining module by attachment to an overlap area of the upper surface of an anchor sheet attached to an adjoining module.

3. A covering module as claimed in claims 1 or 2 in which the means for detachable attachment in the overlap area is a part of a hook and loop attachment system.

4. A covering module as claimed in claim 3 in which there is provided a temporary covering for the overlap area to prevent attachment of such module to an adjoining module until the module and adjoining module are in the desired position relative to each other.

5. The covering module of claim 4 in which the temporary covering is a thin smooth sheet of at least substantially the shape of the overlap area, which cannot bind to either a hook part or a loop part of a hook and loop attachment system.

6. A covering module as claimed in claim 5 in which the temporary covering is sufficiently rigid and thin that it can be pushed between the hooks and loops of an attached hook and loop attachment system.

7. A covering module as claimed in claim 1 or 2 in which the decorative covering and non-decorative anchor sheet are precisely dimensioned and attached off site in pre-determined alignment to provide for a pre-determined overlap area of anchor sheet and decorative covering so that when the anchor sheet of a first module is placed in position next to an adjacent second module the decorative covering of the first module overlaps the second module by a predetermined amount and in a predetermined relation to the decorative covering of the second module.

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8. A covering module as claimed in claim 7 in which the decorative covering and the non-decorative anchor sheet are attached by means of a complementary hook and loop attachment system covering the lower surface of the decorative covering and the upper surface of the anchor sheet.
9. The covering module of claim 1 in which there is provided an additional overlap area of exposed anchor sheet along a second edge of the covering module.
10. The covering module of claim 2 in which there is provided an additional overlap area of exposed decorative covering along a second edge of the covering module.
11. The covering module of claim 3 in which the lower surface of the anchor sheet is provided with a resilient undercushion.
12. The covering module of claim 3 additionally comprising other like modules laid onto a floor and attached to form part of a covering of sufficient mass and rigidity to remain in place on a floor without buckling or movement when subject to normal traffic without attachment to the floor.
13. The covering module of claim 12 in which the lower surface of the anchor sheet is provided with a non-slip covering.
14. A covering module for transportation to a surface to be covered and for attachment to additional modules to form a finished decorative surface comprising:

aim 14 which is provided with

aim 15 in which the anchor

- a thin flexible rigid sheet substantially covered with hooks on a surface; and
- the thin flexible rigid sheet having sufficient rigidity and mass to support the coverings from buckling of the coverings across the entire surface of the coverings when the coverings are attached to the anchor sheet and laid onto the substrate.

18. The anchor sheet of claim 17, wherein the anchor sheet is made of polypropylene or polyethylene.

19. The anchor sheet claimed in claim 17 in which the sheet is detachably attached to a supporting substrate at a limited number of discrete points.

20. The anchor sheet claimed in claim 17 in which the sheet is free floating on the supporting substrate.

21. The anchor sheet of claim 20 in which the sheet has sufficient mass and rigidity to remain in place without attachment to the supporting substrate.

22. The anchor sheet of claim 17 in which there is a resilient layer covering the anchor sheet on the side opposite the hook surface.

23. A covering module comprising:

- (a) a relatively thin flexible anchor sheet having an upper surface of the anchor sheet covered substantially with hooks
- (b) a decorative covering for placement over the anchor sheet having a decorative finished upper surface and a lower surface substantially covered with loops and in which the lower surface of the decorative covering is detachably attached in a predetermined relationship to the upper surface of the anchor sheet by means of at least some of the hooks and loops so that the decorative covering extends beyond the area of the anchor sheet by a first predetermined amount and the anchor sheet

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extends beyond the area of the decorative covering by a second predetermined amount

- (c) a removable hook covering on the upper surface of the anchor sheet other than in the area of detachable attachment of the decorative covering and anchor sheet, to prevent the premature attachment of the hooks on the upper surface of that anchor sheet.

24. The covering module of claim 23 in which the lower surface of the flexible anchor sheet is covered by a cushioned underpad.

25. The covering module of claim 23 in which the hook covering is placed over the hooks during installation.

26. The covering module of claim 25 in which the hook covering is a thin, rigid piece of plastic.

27. An anchor sheet for detachable attachment of decorative coverings to a supporting substrate, the decorative coverings having a finished surface and an opposite surface substantially covered with part of a hook and loop system, comprising:

a thin flexible rigid sheet substantially covered on a first surface with a part of a hook and loop system; and

the sheet having sufficient rigidity and mass, without substantial attachment to the supporting substrate for stability, to support the coverings from buckling of the decorative coverings across the entire surface of the decorative coverings when the decorative coverings are attached to the anchor sheet and laid onto the substrate.

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28. An anchor sheet for forming a cushioning support below a decorative covering comprising a laminate having an upper layer of a relatively thin flexible rigid sheet material having on its upper layer a plurality of hooks comprising one half of a hook and loop attachment system and a bottom layer of a relatively resilient cushioning material attached to the upper layer, the laminate having sufficient rigidity, thickness and mass that when combined with an overlying decorative covering attached to the upper layer by means of loops comprising the complementary second half of a hook and loop attachment system, that such combination is stable against buckling and atmospheric forces so as not to require substantial attachment to the underlying substrate for stability.

29. The anchor sheet of claim 28 in which the upper laminate layer is made of a flexible plastic, hydrocarbon composite or polymer material.

30. The anchor sheet of claim 28 in which the upper layer is comprised of a first hookless layer and a second hooked film layer placed on the hookless layer so as to leave an area along at least two opposed edges of the upper layer free of hooks for seam-joining by pressure sensitive adhesive tape with an abutting anchor sheet.

31. The anchor sheet of claim 30 in which the sheet is a rectangle and the hookless area is along all four edges of the rectangle.

32. The anchor sheet of claim 31 in which the hookless area is recessed on the upper layer approximately the thickness of the hooked film layer.

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33. An anchor sheet modular assembly having a plurality of hooks covering its upper surface formed of a plurality of rigid plastic or polymer sheet pieces abutting each other along a join and in which the join is bridged by a relatively thin tape overlapping the join and attached to the abutting sheet pieces by pressure sensitive adhesive or a complementary hook and loop attachment system.

34. An anchor sheet module for transportation to a surface to be covered and for attachment to additional modules to form an anchor sheet subfloor covered in hooks for installation of overlaying decorative covering pieces having a complementary loop comprising:

an upper layer covered with a plurality of hooks, a lower layer attached to the upper layer, the lower layer dimensioned so that, after attachment of the upper layer to the lower layer, there is provided an overlap area of lower layer for detachable attachment of an overlapping portion of the upper layer of an adjoining module or of an additional piece overlapping the join between the module and an adjoining module.

35/ 45. An anchor sheet module as claimed in claim 34 in which the upper layer and the lower layer of each module are permanently attached.

36/ 46. An anchor sheet module as claimed in claim 34 in which the upper layer and lower layer of each module are detachably attached.

37/ 47. An anchor sheet module as claimed in claim 46 in which the upper layer and lower layer of each are detachably attached by means of a complementary hook and loop attachment system.

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38. An anchor sheet module as claimed in claim 34 in which overlap area of lower layer of anchor sheet module and overlap area of upper layer of anchor sheet module are provided with means for detachable attachment of such anchor sheet module to an adjoining anchor sheet module by attachment to an overlap area of an adjoining anchor sheet module by means of a complementary hook and loop attachment system.

39. An anchor sheet module as claimed in claim 34 in which the underside of the lower layer of the anchor sheet module is covered with a resilient cushion layer.

40. A plurality of covering modules attached together and laid onto a floor to form a covering of sufficient mass and rigidity to remain in place on a floor without buckling or movement when subject to normal traffic and without attachment to the floor wherein each covering module comprises:

at least one decorative covering having an upper decorative surface and an opposite lower surface, a non-decorative anchor sheet having an upper surface and a non-decorative lower surface, the decorative covering detachably attached across a substantial portion of its lower surface to the non-decorative anchor sheet and the anchor sheet dimensioned so that, after attachment of the decorative covering to the anchor sheet, there is provided an overlap area of upper surface of anchor sheet exposed along one edge of the module, which overlap area is provided with means for detachable attachment of such module to an adjoining module by attachment to an overlapping exposed area of the lower surface of a decorative covering attached to an adjoining module, said means for detachable attachment being one portion of a complementary hook and loop attachment system

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substantially covering the overlap area of the anchor sheet to be matched with the complementary second portion of such hook and loop system on the overlap area of an adjoining decorative covering.

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A plurality of covering modules attached together and laid onto a floor to form a covering of sufficient mass and rigidity to remain in place on a floor without buckling or movement when subject to normal traffic and without attachment to the floor wherein each covering module comprises:

at least one decorative covering having an upper decorative surface and an opposite lower surface, a non-decorative anchor sheet having an upper surface and a non-decorative lower surface, the decorative covering detachably attached across a substantial portion of its lower surface to the non-decorative anchor sheet and the anchor sheet dimensioned so that, after attachment of the decorative covering to the anchor sheet, there is provided an overlap area of lower surface of the decorative covering exposed along one edge of the module, which overlap area is provided with means for detachable attachment of such module to an adjoining module by attachment to an overlap area of the upper surface of an anchor sheet attached to an adjoining module, said means for detachable attachment being one portion of a complementary hook and loop attachment system substantially covering the overlap area of the anchor sheet to be matched with the complementary second portion of such hook and loop system on the overlap area of an adjoining decorative covering.

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~~53.~~ The anchor sheet of claim 28 in which the decorative covering is selected from all or some of the following: wood, ceramic or plastic tile, or carpet.

- a) a rectangular module having a top and bottom surface in which the top surface is covered with hooks;
- b) a first area recessed from the top surface a predetermined amount along two adjacent edges to create an underlap area;
- c) a second area recessed from the bottom surface a predetermined amount complimentary to the top surface recess and along two opposite adjacent edges to create an overlap area;

in which the overlap area of one module can overlap with the underlap area of an adjacent module to form a finished subsurface.

35. The module of claim 54 in which the bottom surface is covered with a resilient cushion layer.

36. The module of claim 54 in which the overlap area is substantially covered by a first half of a complementary hook and loop attachment system and the underlap area is substantially covered by a second half of the complementary hook and loop attachment system.

57. The module of claim 56 in which the first half of the complementary hook and loop attachment system or the second half of the complementary hook and loop attachment system is covered by a temporary, removable covering.

58. The anchor sheet of claim 28 wherein the upper layer is a relatively thin flexible rigid monolithic sheet material.

59. A plurality of modules to form a subsurface, each module having at least the following characteristics:

- a) a rectangular module having a top and bottom surface in which the top surface is covered with hooks;
- b) a first area recessed from the top surface a predetermined amount along two adjacent edges to create an underlap area;
- c) a second area recessed from the bottom surface a predetermined amount complimentary to the top surface recess and along two opposite adjacent edges to create an overlap area;

in which the overlap area of one module can overlap with the underlap area of an adjacent module to form a finished subsurface.

60. The plurality of modules of claim 60 in which the bottom surface is covered with a resilient cushion layer.

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51/ 61. The plurality of modules of claim 61 further comprising a decorative covering overlying the surface created by the modules and attached to at least two of such modules to tie at least two such modules together.

52/ 62. The plurality of modules of claim 62 in which the decorative covering has a complementary loop half of a hook and loop attachment system tied to the hooks of the top surfaces of the at least two modules.

53/ 63. The plurality of modules of claim 61 in which the overlap area is substantially covered by a first half of a complementary hook and loop attachment system and the underlap area is substantially covered by a second half of the complementary hook and loop attachment system.

54/ 64. The plurality of modules of claim 64 in which the first half of the complementary hook and loop attachment system or the second half of the complementary hook and loop attachment system is covered by a temporary, removable covering.

55/ 65. The plurality of modules of claim 61 in which some or all of the modules are attached to the floor.

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